

spines to surmount an obstacle—and I assure you I'm praying a lot these days—prayer can also do something else. It can touch our hearts with humility. It can fill us with a spirit of brotherhood. It can remind us that each of us are children of an awesome and loving God.

Through faith, but not through faith alone, we can unite people to serve the common good. And that's why my Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships has been working so hard since I announced it here last year. We have slashed red tape and built effective partnerships on a range of uses, from promoting fatherhood here at home, to spearheading inter-faith cooperation abroad. And through that office, we have turned the faith based initiative around to find common ground among people of all beliefs, allowing them to make an impact that is civil and respectful of difference and focused on what matters most.

It is this spirit of civility that we are called to take up when we leave here today. That is what I am praying for. I know in difficult times like these—when people are frustrated, when pundits start shouting and politicians start calling each other names—it can seem like a return to civility is not possible, like the very idea is a relic of some bygone era. The word itself seems quaint—civility.

But let us remember those who came before; those who believed in the brotherhood of man even when such a faith was tested. Remember Dr. Martin Luther King. Not long after an explosion ripped through his front porch, his wife and infant daughter inside, he rose to that pulpit in Montgomery and said, "Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend."

In the eyes of those who denied his humanity, he saw the face of God.

Remember Abraham Lincoln. On the eve of the Civil War, with states seceding and forces gathering, with a nation divided half slave half free, he rose to deliver his first inaugural and said, "We are not enemies but friends . . . Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection."

Even in the eyes of Confederate soldiers, he saw the face of God.

Remember William Wilberforce, whose Christian faith led him to seek slavery's abolition in Britain. He was vilified, derided, attacked; but he called for "lessening prejudices and conciliating good-will, and thereby making way for the less obstructed progress of truth."

In the eyes of those who sought to silence a nation's conscience, he saw the face of God.

Yes, there are crimes of conscience that call us to action. Yes, there are causes that move our hearts and offenses that stir our souls. But progress does not come when we demonize opponents. It is not born in righteous spite. Progress comes when we open our hearts, when we extend our hands, when we recognize our common humanity. Progress comes when we look into the eyes of another and see the face of God. That we might do so—that we will do so all the time, not just some of the time—is my fervent prayer for the nation and the world.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

Senator Isakson: Thank you so much, Mr. President, for your leadership and your words of faith. We are now in for a magnificent treat. Ralph Freeman founded Song Sermon Ministries years ago, has sung on continents around the world and throughout the United States. Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Ralph Freeman.

Mr. Ralph Freeman: [Singing]

We believe in the Father who created all that is

And we believe the universe and all there is His

As a loving Heavenly Father he yearned to save us all

To lift us from the fall—we believe

We believe in Jesus, the Father's only son Existing uncreated before time had begun A sacrifice for sin, he died then he rose again To ransom sinful man—we believe.

We believe in the Spirit who makes believers one

Our hearts are filled with His presence

The Comforter has come

The kingdom unfolds in His plan

Unhindered by quarrels of man

His church upheld by his hands—we believe

Though the Earth be removed

And time be no more

These truths are secure God's words shall endure

Whatever may change, these things for sure—we believe.

So if the mountains are cast down into the plains

When the kingdoms all crumble, this one remains

Our faith is not subject to seasons of man

With our fathers we proclaim

We believe our Lord will come as He said

The land and the sea will give up their dead His children will reign with Him as their head

We believe

We believe

Senator Klobuchar: What an amazing song. Thank you so much and the President wanted me to let you know he only had to leave early so it makes it easier for you all to get out of here. But we want to thank you for such a beautiful morning, something we will never forget and we have one last prayer, a closing prayer and Johnny will introduce our speaker.

Senator Isakson: My favorite verse in the Bible is in the first book of Thessalonians, the 5th chapter, the 16th and 17th verses—"Rejoice evermore." And certainly after this morning's message from Secretary of State Clinton and the gifted musicians that we heard from, Ralph Freeman, Bob Fraumann and MaryKay Messenger, we have had a reason to rejoice this morning. But in addition, the second verse says "Pray without ceasing," and I can not think of a more appropriate person to close today than the young man of great gift and talent on the gridiron, who lives his faith and ministers around the world sharing with others. A role model for the youth of America, the University of Florida quarterback, the Heisman Trophy Winner, Mr. Tim Tebow.

Mr. Tim Tebow: It is actually rather incredible that a Georgia Bulldog would invite a Florida Gator. So you can actually see the hand of God here today already. Madam Secretary, Senators, distinguished guests, thank you so much for this opportunity. Now if you would, please bow your heads and pray with me right now.

Dear Jesus, thank you for this day. Thank you for bringing together so many people that have a platform to influence people for you. Lord, as we disperse today let us be united in love, hope and peace. Lord, let us come together as one and break down all the barriers in between us that separate us. Lord, you came to seek and save those who were lost and we thank you for that. Lord, we don't know what the future holds but we know who holds the future and in that there is peace and in that there is comfort and in that there is hope. Lord, we pray for the people all over the world who are hurting right now, Lord. And the first thing that comes to mind is James 1, verses 2 through 4, "Consider all joy my brethren when you encoun-

ter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance and let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." And we pray for the people in Haiti right now, Lord, that you make them perfect and complete because you love them and you have a plan for their lives, just like you do with our lives right now. So my prayer is as we leave today, we are united as one because of you. We love you and thank you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Senator Isakson: Thank you for attending. We look forward to seeing you at the 59th Prayer Breakfast next year.

Senator Klobuchar: Thank you.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST WILLIAM C. YAUCH

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I honor SPC William C. Yauch, 23, of Batesville who died in Jalula, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. According to initial reports, Specialist Yauch died of injuries sustained when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near his patrol. He is survived by his wife of Batesville, his mother of Cave City, and his father of Saint Charles, MO.

My heart goes out to the family of Specialist Yauch who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our Nation. Along with all Arkansans, I am grateful for his service and for the service and sacrifice of all of our military servicemembers and their families. I am committed to ensuring they have the full support that they need and deserve. Our grateful Nation will not forget them when their military service is complete.

More than 11,000 Arkansans on active duty and more than 10,000 Arkansas reservists have served in Iraq or Afghanistan since September 11, 2001. These men and women have shown tremendous courage and perseverance through the most difficult of times. As neighbors, as Arkansans, and as Americans, it is incumbent upon us to do everything we can to honor their service and to provide for them and their families, not only when they are in harm's way but also when they return home. It is the least we can do for those whom we owe so much.

Specialist Yauch was assigned to B Company, 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA.

REMEMBERING COLONEL WILLIAM H. MASON AND CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT THOMAS E. KNEBEL

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to two airmen from Arkansas, Air Force COL William H. Mason of Camden and CMSGT. Thomas E. Knebel of Midway, who bravely gave their lives during the Vietnam War, but whose ultimate fate had remained unknown. During a recent ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, Colonel Mason and Chief Master Sergeant Knebel along with their crew members were given full military honors for their sacrifice.